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REYNOLDS HISTORICAL GENEALOGY COLLECTION







THE HISTORY

OF THE

## ALEXANDER FAMILY

FROM WHICH IS TRACED THE HISTORY OF

### THE MURPHY FAMILY

AND THE REPRINTING OF SOME INTERESTING DOCUMENTS

PRINTED FOR

MRS. ADELAIDE FRANCES MURPHY
SULLIVAN 78 7370

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

# THE DESCENT OF MRS. ADELAIDE FRANCES MURPHY SULLIVAN

Residing at 1221 Union Street, San Francisco, Cal.

Wife of
EUGENE JOSEPH SULLIVAN
Residing at 1221 Union Street, San Francisco, Cal.

Daughter of
JESSE STAMFER MURPHY
Of Napa County, Cal.

Granddaughter of RUELL MURPHY Of Kentucky

Great Granddaughter of FRANCIS MURPHY Of Kentucky

wid Ext 7-1978

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#### THE DESCRIPT OF MRS. ABELAIDE FRANCES MURPHY SULLIVAN

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## History of the Alexander Family

#### By E. H. ALEXANDER, Antioch

Our good friend Paul Revere requested me a short time before the suspension of "The News," under its former editor, to write the history of the

Alexander family for publication.

As the history of this family is so closely interwoven with the histories of a great many other families of different names, who can trace their descent from John Alexander, who settled in Cumberland County in 1805, I have concluded to give the main facts as gathered by my father, C. F. Alexander, and Judge Tyler Alexander and others, and leave it to those who may be interested to trace their individual descent from the old family tree.

First, we will briefly refer to the eldest members of the family who came from Scotland. It appears that the Alexanders of Scotland affiliated with Clans Wallace and Douglas, and were supporters of Robert Bruce. Their motto in heraldry was "Faithful and Grateful." To go no farther back than can be proven by family records, we find that John Alexander married a Miss Margaret Gleason of Glasgow, Scotland, in 1735, and shortly afterwards went to Ireland; and in the year 1740, he with two of his brother's sons and a niece who had married a Mr. Polk, emigrated to America and settled in Chesterlea, Pennsylvania. Soon afterwards the two brothers, with their brother-in-law, Mr. Polk, moved to Mecklenburg County,

North Carolina. From this source sprang the Alexanders of North Carolina and a great portion of

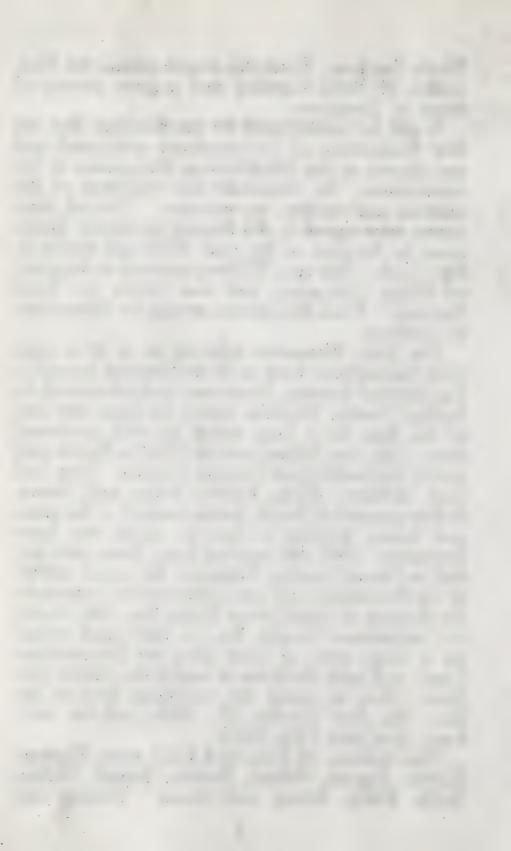
those of Tennessee.

It will be remembered by the historian that the first Declaration of Independence originated and was known as the Mecklenberg Declaration of Independence. An Alexander was chairman of the meeting and another its secretary. Five of their names were signed to this historic document. James came to America in the year 1716 and settled in New York. His son, William, married a daughter of Philip Livingston, and was known as "Lord Sterling." From that source sprang the Alexanders of America.

The John Alexander referred to, a short time after his nephews went to North Carolina moved to Cumberland County, Tennessee, and afterwards to Berkly County, Virginia, where he spent the rest of his days on a farm which he had purchased there. His son, Robert, married Bertha Martin and settled in Cumberland County, Virginia. They had four children—John, Biddie, Bettie and Susan. Biddie married a Smith, Bettie married a Sampson and Susan married a Spears. John was born December, 1741. He married Lucy Nunn and settled in Henry County, Virginia. He was a soldier of the Revolution and rose to the rank of captain in the Brigade of Light Horse Harry Lee. He moved to Cumberland County, Ky., in 1805, and settled on a large tract of land lying on Marrowbone Creek and built the home in which Guy Davis now lives. Here he spent the remaining days of his life. He died October 17, 1836, and his wife, Lucy, died July 15th, 1815.

Lucy, died July 15th, 1815.

The children of John and Lucy were Thomas, Martin, Ingram, Robert, Reubin, Joseph, Phillip, Sollie, Biddy, Betsey and Susan. Thomas first



married Mollie Rancy and afterward Nancy Wisdom. Martin married Winnie Jones; Ingram married Botsey Nunn; Robert married Polly Miller; Reuben married Eliza Miller; Joseph first married Nancy Bouldin of Hart County and afterwards Sally Bouldin of Virginia; Philip married Susan Bouldin, a sister of Sallie; Biddy married Peter Gearhart; Betsey married Thomas Smith; Susan married Michael Hall and afterwards a Mr. Porter.

As foresaid, those who are interested may trace their particular line back to the Alexanders of Scotland. Among the families of other names who are descendants of John Alexander are the Munroes, Whites, Gees, Paces, Davis, Richey, Allen, Baker, Jones Smith, Beck, Norris, Nunn, Harvey, Taylor, Strange, Stockwell, Murphy and a host of others that I do not recall and have not space to mention.

Among those of the name who are living on the place previously occupied by John Alexander, Sr., are E. G., John O. and Herschel Alexander, of Waterview, John R. Alexander of Marrowbone. Will E. Davis and Guy Davis, who are living on the old home place, are direct descendants, being great-great grandsons on their mother's side.

As farmers, teachers, doctors, lawyers and merchants they have been prominent, not only in the society in which they live, but in the wider field they have been a part and parcel of the warp and

woof of national existence.

It was the thunder of Alexander's Battery that signalled the charge of Gettysburg, when the flower of the Army of Virginia was hurled like a restless wave on Cemetery Hill. These were some of the same stock who stood in the solid wall that rolled back the wave in shattered fragments and sounded the knell of the Confederacy.

In more peaceful times we find the names of

Tyler Alexander, Herschel Baker and Wallace Jones, who have served their people with ability and honor as judges of our circuit courts. Senator Frank White and Hon. James Harvey and others have served in the councils of State. Edwin Norris, who was born and reared in the old home place, was the popular Governer of Montana. In athletics Grover Alexander has shone as a star of the first magnitude in the firmanent of our national game. As an educator James R. Alexander is known throughout the State. But why be personal? There are hundreds who might be named.

The ladies of the family should not be forgotten. I have often heard the old-time darkies speak of the grace and beauties of our maternal ancestorsespecially of "Miss Lucy" and "Miss Liza." According to their reports, Miss Lucy was small and fairy-like but exceedingly pretty and vivacious. It is said all of her sons were over six feet tall and stalwart and that their mother could easily walk under their extended arms. Often in their sport they would seize their mother and carry her about the room as though she were a little child. One old colored man who was brought from Virginia and who was known as "Richmond Jim," often boasted to me of the "quality of his family." An event he was very fond of relating was that young Miss Eliza Miller was selected, on account of her beauty, to deposit a gold coin in the cornerstone of the capitol. If "Uncle Jim" was anything like a fair judge, she was also a very skillful performer on the "forte piano." Reubin Alexander married Eliza Miller.

Among the many young lady descendants of those old-time beauties who were belles in their youth, perhaps none were more popular than the Misses Nannie Alexander of Burkesville and Lina Duerson of Marrowbone.

Grace and beauty are still characteristics of the descendents. From Willow Shade to Burkesville, including the whole of Marrowbone Valley, they are to be found in abundance. Go to the old homestead, which for generations has given of its substance to brawn of its sons and bloom to its daughters, and there on the ground made sacred by the foctsteps of those who have gone before, you will find that the blood that painted the roses in the cheeks of our great grandmothers still courses through the veins of their daughters, and the bewitching beauty of Miss Nellie is no less charming than were theirs.

A short time ago I had the pleasure of stopping over night at the home place and enjoying the hospitality of Will, Ed and Guy Davis and their charm-

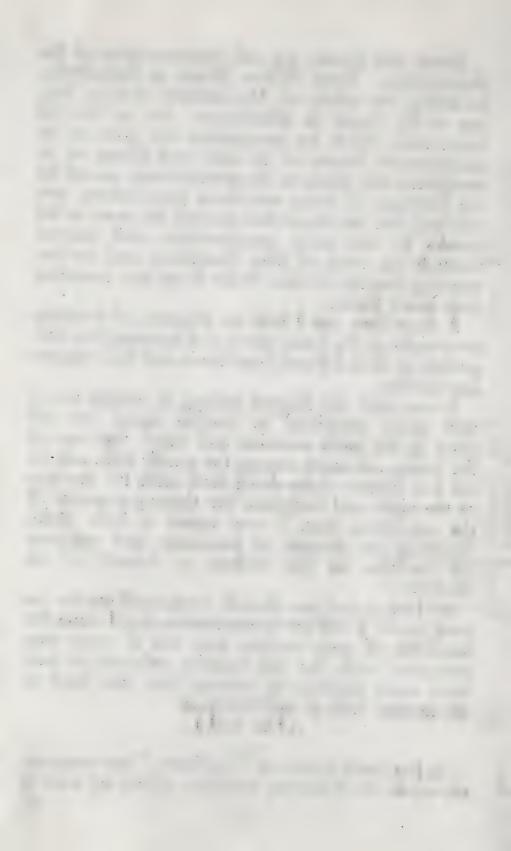
ing families.

It was with the keenest feeling of delight that I was again permitted to ramble about the old place in the early morning and watch the fogs of the valley roll away among the purple hills, and as the rosy fingers of the dawn drew aside the curtains of the night and fashioned the shining garments of the new-born day, I was again a little child, dreaming the dreams of innocence and enjoying the beauties of life without a thought of its shadows.

As I have perhaps already trespassed too far on your space, I will say in conclusion that I hope the hundreds of your readers who are in some way connected with the old families referred to may have some pleasure in tracing their line back to the heather hills of old Scotland.

(The End.)

In last week's issue of "The News," our compositor made the following mistakes, which we wish to



correct: John Alexander came from Ireland to Chesterlea, Pennsylvania, instead of Tennessee. Also he married Maryart Gleason, instead of Margaret, as was stated last week.

#### LETTER OF J. W. MURPHY TO HIS AUNT, MRS. NARCISSA MERRIFIELD, OF OROVILLE, CALIFORNIA

Burlington, Iowa, January 26, 1924.

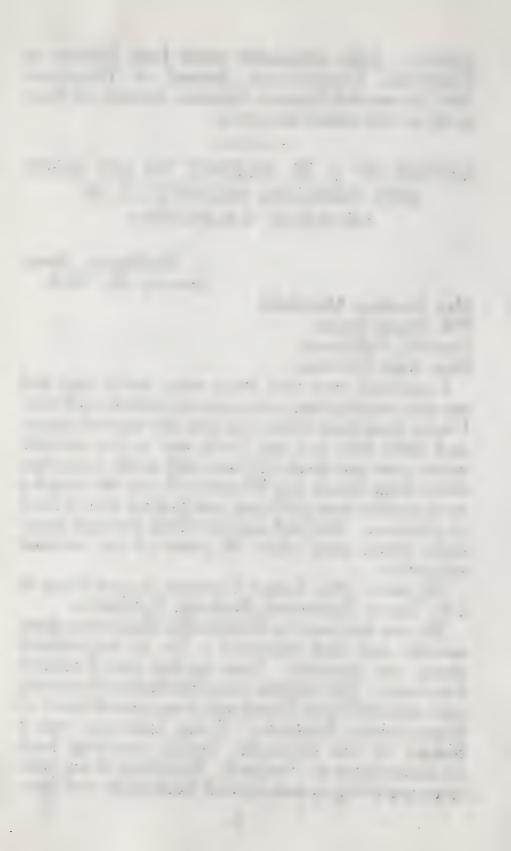
Mrs. Narcissa Merrifield, 908 Meyer Street, Oroville, California, Dear Aunt Narcissa:

I received your nice letter some weeks ago and am now sending you a message of interest and love. I learn from your letter that you are married again, and infer that you are living out in the suburbs where you can keep chickens and make a garden. After Aunt Susan was 90 years of age she raised a good garden over at Luray and looked after a flock of chickens. She had read the Bible through forty-eight times, once after 90 years of age without spectacles.

My sister, Mrs. Emma Cushman, is now living at

144 Sunset Boulevard, Modesto, California.

My son was over at Burkesville, Kentucky, some months ago and procured a lot of information about our ancestry. Your mother was Elizabeth Gearheart. Her mother was Obedience Alexander, who married Peter Gearheart, your grandfather, at Marrowbone, Kentucky. I am enclosing you a history of the Alexander family, reaching back six generations to Scotland. Hundreds of our relatives are living in and around Burkesville and Mar-



rowbone, and this history of the Alexander family was written and published by one of them 25 years ago. Am also enclosing you with this letter a bill of sale for a negro woman which your father purchased from your uncle in 1835 down in Kentucky. I am wondering if this negro woman is "Old Auntie"? Do you know anything about it?

I am endeavoring to compile a history of our family. The farthest back I can go with the Murphy family lineage is to Francis Murphy, your grandfather, who died on his farm at Burkesville, Kentucky, in 1835. I am enclosing you a copy of his will, the original of which is on record at

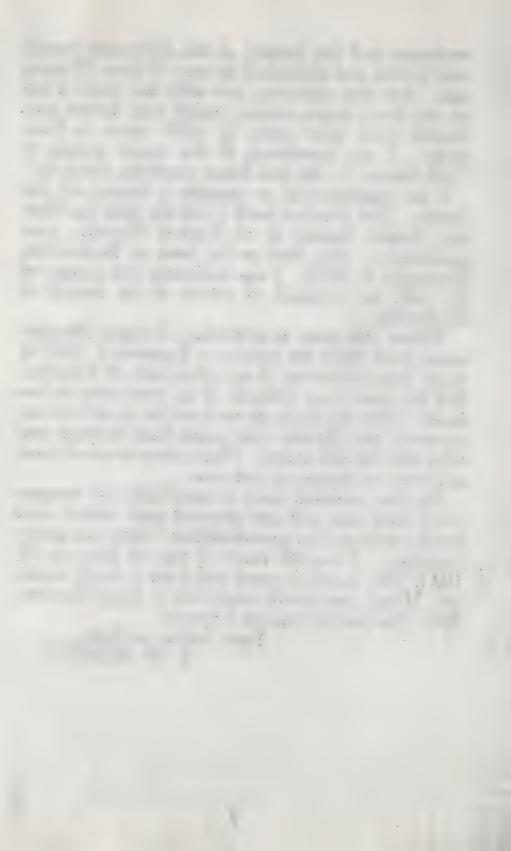
Burkesville.

Where did your grandfather, Francis Murphy, come from when he moved to Kentucky? Did he come from Virginia; if so, what part of Virginia? Did he come from Ireland; if so, what part of Ireland? How far back do we have to go to find our ancestor, the Murphy who came from Ireland, and what was his full name? Please answer all of these questions as nearly as you can.

My four children grew to manhood and womanhood long ago and are married and settled, and besides having four grandchildren I have one greatgrandson. I was 67 years of age on January 10, 1924. My health is good and I am a steady worker. Myself and family send love to Aunt Narcissa.

With affectionate regards I remain

Your loving nephew, J. W. MURPHY.



## A DEED FROM THOS. AND SUSY WASH TO FRANCIS MURPHY

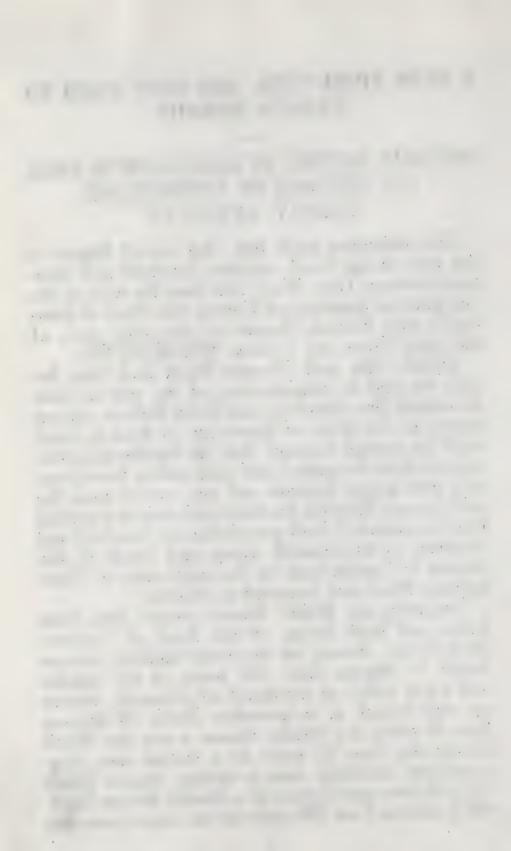
#### ORIGINAL RECORD IN DEED BOOK D, PAGE 152, RECORDS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY, KENTUCKY

This indenture made this 17th day of August in the year of our Lord, eighteen hundred and nineteen between Thos. Wash and Susy his wife of the one part, of Cumberland County and State of Kentucky, and Francis Murphy of the other part, of the same State and County, WITNESSETH:

THAT, The said Thomas Wash and Susy his

THAT, The said Thomas Wash and Susy his wife for and in consideration of the sum of Two Thousand One Hundred and Forty Dollars current money of the State of Kentucky, to them in hand paid the receipt whereof they do hereby acknowledge hath by bargained and sold and by these presents doth grant, bargain. sell and convey unto the said Francis Murphy, his heirs and assigns a certain tract or parcel of land containing two hundred and fourteen acres situated, lying and being in the county of Cumberland on the north side of Cumberland River and bounded as follows:

Beginning on Walter Nunn's corner, elm, horn beam and hack berry, on the Bank of Cumberland River; thence up the river binding thereon South 34 degrees East, 102 poles, to two maples and a box elder; at the mouth of a branch; thence up said branch as it meanders North 74 degrees East 40 poles to a beech; thence a new line North 55 degrees East 22 poles to a walnut tree, dogwood and mulberry near a spring; thence South 53½ degrees east 8 poles to a beech; thence North 49½ degrees East 106 poles to two sugar trees and



a black ash on the Bank of the branch; thence north 11 degrees East 248 poles to three beeches in the old line of said Military Survey; thence with that line North 60 degrees West 38½ poles to Walter Nunn's corner a beech in said line; thence with his line South 13 degrees West 100 poles to a sugar tree and White Oak; thence South 43 degrees West 220 poles to the beginning.

With its appuurtenances, TO HAVE AND TO

HOLD the said 214 acres of land with all and singular the appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appurtaining to them. The said Murphy his heirs and assigns forever, and to his and their only proper use, benefit and behoof, and Thomas Wash and Lucy his wife for themselves and their heirs and all persons claiming under them further covenant and agree to and with said Murphy and his heirs that the aforesaid tract of land and appurtenances they will warrant and forever defend from the claims of themselves and their heirs and from all and every person or persons claim or claims of any kind whatsover.

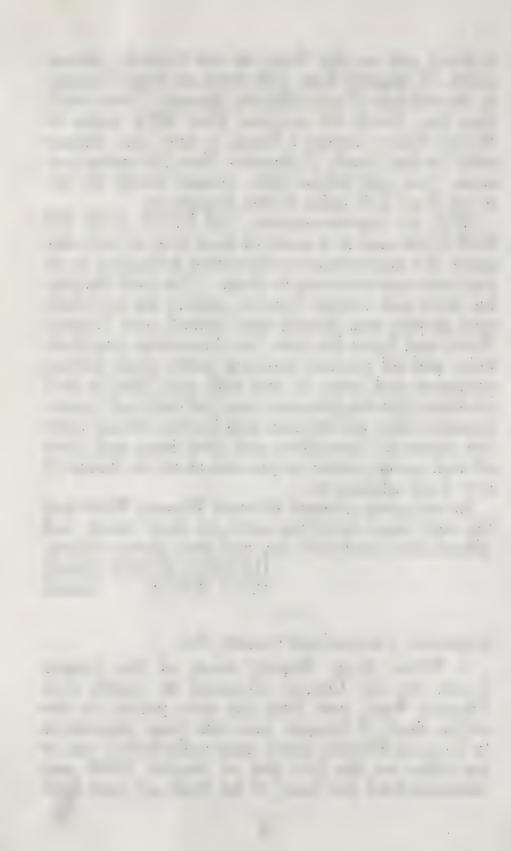
In testimony whereof the said Thomas Wash and his wife Susy have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals this day and year above written.

THOMAS WASH, (Seal)

SUSY WASH. (Seal)

Kentucky. Cumberland County, Sct.

I. Milton King, Deputy Clerk of the County Court, for the County aforesaid do certify that Thomas Wash and Susy his wife parties to the within deed of bargain and sale from themselves to Francis Murphy came personally before me in my office on the 21st day of August, 1819, and acknowledged the same to be their act and deed



privily examined her the said Susy, separate and a part from her said Husband, and she acknowledged that she freely and voluntarily relinquished all her right of dower in and to the within mentioned tract of land and premises without the persuasion or coersion of her said husband and that she did not wish to retract the same, and agree that the same should be received in my said office and that I have recorded the same together with this certificate in my office in Deed Book D., Page 152.

Witness my hand this 19th day of November.

1819.

MILTON KING.

#### THE LAST WILL OF FRANCIS MURPHY

#### ORIGINAL RECORD IN WILL BOOK C, PAGE 86, RECORDS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY, KENTUCKY

I, Francis Murphy, of the County of Cumberland, and State of Kentucky, (being) of sound mind and memory, and wishing to arrange my temporal matters and to dispose of my property in an equitable and just manner amongst my family, do make, constitute and ordain this my LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT, hereby revoking all others, WITNESSETH:

FIRST: I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife, Ann Murphy, for her natural life the one-third of all of my estate, both real and personal, and it is my wish that in laying off her dower in my lands that it shall be so done as to give her the mansion house, garden and so forth and in such manner as to operate equal on the respective parts

#### 

of the lands laid off for my sons, Reull and Foster Murphy;—and in allowing her the third of my slaves, stock and household goods, I wish her to select such as she may prefer, and I do hereby give her the privilege. The personal estate allotted to my beloved wife to revert back to my estate at her death and to be divided as hereafter named be-

tween my children or their heirs.

SECOND: I give and bequeath to my sons,
Ruell Murphy and Foster Murphy, the lands and tenements at present owned by me or I may possess at my demise or diseeged to them and their heirs forever, subject to the dower of my wife, to be divided as follows, viz.: To Ruell Murphy all that portion of the tract of land on which we at present reside lying north of a dividing line this day run and marked by W. C. Barton (in the presence of both Reull and Foster Murphy), being that part of said tract adjoining the land of W. Nunn's Est. and of which Reull Murphy have erected a to be divided equal between them in such manner as they may agree on. Their respective parts of the land willed by these presents to be valued to them by Commissioners at a fair cash valuation and they are to account for the same in the distribution and division of my estate or property.

THIRDLY: I give and bequeath my whole estate to be equally divided and allotted between and amongst my five children, viz: John Murphy, Reull Murphy, Nicholas Murphy, Foster Murphy

and Missouri Murphy, or should either of them die previous to my demise to his or her heirs; my son John Murphy accounting for in said division the sum of one hundred and eighty-five dollars previously to this date given him; my son Reull Murphy for the sum of one hundred (\$100) dollars given him previous to this; my son Nicholas the sum of One hundred and seventy three dollars heretofore received by him, my son, Ruell Murphy furthermore to account in said division for the amount of the valuation of the lands (not including the buildings and improvements put on the same by himself) hereby devised, and my son Foster the amount of the valuation of the lands hereby willed him and my daughter, Missouri, to account for the appraisement of the little negro girl Indith which I have given her. It is furthermore my wish that my slaves be held by my children and taken by them at valuation and that my estate be divided as early as convenient after my death with as little cost as possible. I appoint my sons John Murphy and Foster Murphy my executors.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my

hand and seal this 11th day of April, 1833.

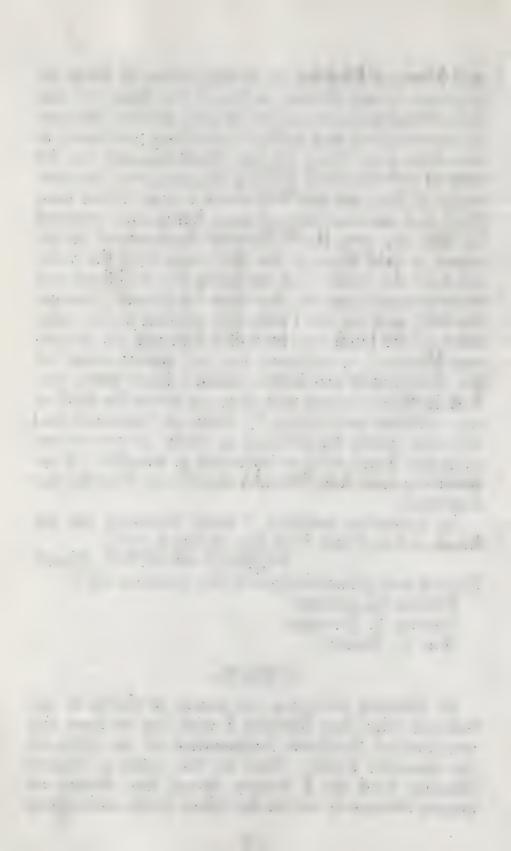
FRANCIS MURPHY, (Seal)

Signed and acknowledged in the presence of:)

Reubin Alexander, Nathan S. Strange, Wm. C. Barton.

#### CODICIL.

In allotting or laying the dower or thirds to my beloved wife Ann Murphy I wish her to have the one-third of the lands independent of the value of the mansion house. And on the value of Foster Murphy land do I hereby direct that house or houses thereon is not to be taken in the estimation



of the valuation by the Commissioners, but he is to be placed on the same footing of his Bro. Reull. as I allow him the improvements for his extra services. In addition to the within will I have hereunto annexed the above codicil.

Given under my hand the 11th April 1833. FRANCIS MURPHY.

Signed and acknowledged in the presence of:

Reubin Alexander. Nathan S. Strange. Wm. C. Barton.

Kentucky, Cumberland County, Sct.

I, Milton King, Clerk of the County Clerk for said County do hereby certify that the within last will and testament of Francis Murphy dec'd, together with his codicil annexed was produced in open court at the September term 1833; and proven by the oaths of Reubin Alexander and Nathan S. Strange two of the subscribing witnesses thereto and ordered to record and the same is truly entered of record in office in Will Book C, page 86.

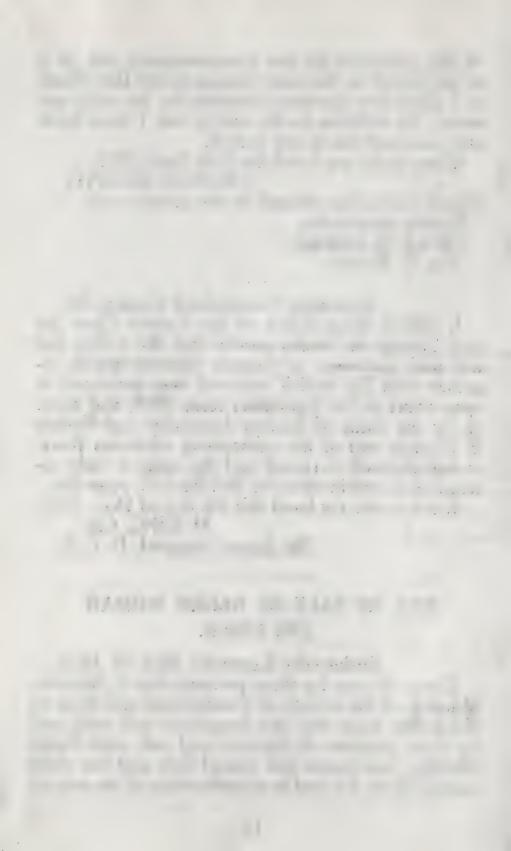
Given under my hand this 6th day of Dec., 1833.

M. KING, Clk.,

By James Haggard, D. C. C.

#### BILL OF SALE OF NEGRO WOMAN AND CHILD.

Burkesville, Kentucky, May 10, 1835. Know all men by these presents that I, Nicholas Murphy, of the county of Cumberland and State of Kentucky, have this day bargained and sold, and by these presents do bargain and sell, unto Reuel Murphy, one negro girl named Eda and her child named Mary, for and in consideration of the sum of



Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged; and the said Nicholas P. Murphy doth hereby covenant that he will forever defend the said Negroes and their fu-ture increase, unto him the said Reuel Murphy, his heirs and assigns, against all prsons whomsoever. In testimony whereof the said Nicholas P. Mur-

phy has set his hand and seal this 10th day of

May 1835. (Signed)

N. P. MURPHY. (Seal)

Witness:

Foster Murphy.

## A DEED FROM RUELL MURPHY AND WIFE TO FOSTER MURPHY.

## ORIGINAL RECORD IN DEED BOOK J, PAGE 162, RECORDS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY. KENTUCKY

This indenture made and entered into this 18th day of October. 1836, by and between Ruell Murphy and Elizabeth his wife of the one part and Foster Murphy of the other part, WITNESSETH:

That, the said Murphy for and in consideration of the sum of \$738.34 in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the said Ruell Murphy hathe bargained and sold and confirmed and by these presents bargain, grant, sell, convey and confirm unto the said Foster, his heirs or assigns, two certain parcels of land lying and being in the County of Cumberland, and State of Kentucky, one parcel being the land and premises whereon the said Ruell resides at present being the west end of the tract of land that the late Francis

Murphy deid seized devised and will by said Francis Murphy to said Ruell Murphy not including any portion of said land included in the dower of their mother Ann Murphy to be laid off as directed by the will, see will of Francis Murphy of record in Cumberland's County Clerk's Office, being onethird of the homestead tract of land that their father died seized in the one-third of Two Hundred and Fourteen acres see deed Wash to Murphy, also the undivided moiety of a survey of 100 acres of land lying on the south or opposite side of the Cumberland River in the hills held heretofore jointly by Ruell and Foster Murphy. To him the said Fos-ter Murphy and his heirs and assigns forever with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging and the said Ruell Murphy and Elizabeth his wife do by these presents warrant and defend the right and title in fee simple in and to the above conveyed premises that is the seventy-one and onethird acres on the north side of the Cumberland River and the fifty acres of land on the south side to the said Foster Murphy his heirs and assigns against the claim of all and every person or persons whatsoever.

In testimony whereof the said Ruell Murphy and Elizabeth his wife hath hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals the day and date above writ-

ten.

ELIZABETH MURPHY (Seal) RUELL MURPHY (Seal)

Ak. John Carter, Joseph M. Gearhart.

2005144

Kentucky, Cumberland County. Sct. I, M. King, Clerk of the Cumberland County Court, do certify that the within deed was proven

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A CONTRACTOR OF THE

before me on the 7th day of November, 1836, by the two subscribing witnesses hereto and ordered to record and the same is entered of record in my office in deed book J, Page 162.

Given under my hand this 10th day of Nov.,

1836.

M. KING.

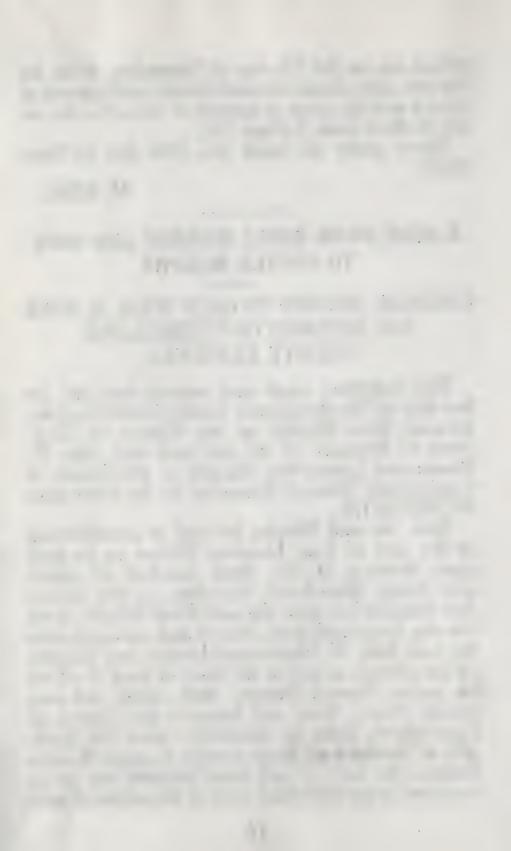
## A DEED FROM RUELL MURPHY AND WIFE TO FOSTER MURPHY

## ORIGINAL RECORD IN DEED BOOK N, PAGE 120, RECORDS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY, KENTUCKY

This indenture made and entered into this the first day of March eighteen hundred and fifty-four, between Ruel Murphy of the County of Clark, State of Missouri, of the one part and John W. Hunter and Louisa Ann Murphy of the County of Cumberland, State of Kentucky, of the other part,

WITNESSETH:

That, the said Murphy for and in consideration of the sum of Four Hundred Dollars to be paid upon delivery of this deed, one-half of which sum Curtis Blacwkood, Guardian to the Louisa Ann Murphy is to pay, the said Ruell Murphy, hath this day bargained, sold, aliened and conveyed unto the said John W. Hunter and Louisa Ann Murphy all his interest in and to the tract of land of which his father, Francis Murphy, died, seized and possessed, situate, lying and being in the County of Cumberland, State of Kentucky, upon the north side of Cumberland River in what is called Washes Bottom, the part of said tract intended her to be conveyed is an undivided sixth of the whole of said



tract or one-half of the portion devised by the said Francis Murphy, his wife to Ann Murphy his wife of dower or as shair in lien or dower and the said Ruell Murphy covenants and agrees to and with the said John W. Hunter and Louisa Ann Murphy that he will warrant and forever defend the title of the land hereby conveyed unto the said Hunter and Murphy of the second part their heirs and assigns free from and against the claim or claims of all and every person whatsoever, hereby linding himself, his heirs and assigns and executors on this warranty

In testimony whereof the said Ruell Murphy and Elizabeth his wife who hereby relinquishes her claim to dower in the land conveyed have subscribed their names and affixed their seals this day first above written.

RUELL MURPHY (Seal) ELIZABETH MURPHY (Seal)

State of Missouri, County of Clark

Be it remembered that on this 1st day of March, 1854, before me John P. Hampton, Clerk of the County Court within and for said County of Clark, personally appeared Ruel Murphy personally known as to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument of writing as a party thereto and acknowledged the same to be his act and deed for the purposes therein attained.

Given under my hand and seal and office at

Alexandria, this 1st day of March, 1854.

(Seal) JOHN P. HAMPTON, Clk.



State of Missouri.) County of Clark.)

I, John P. Hampton, Clerk of the County Court of Clark County, State of Missouri, do certify that the foregoing instrumentof writing from Ruel Murphy and his wife Elizabeth was this day produced to me by the parties and the contents and effects of the said instrument being explained by me separate and apart from her husband she thereupon declared that she did freely and voluntarily execute and deliver the same to be her act and deed and consented that the same might be recorded.

Given under my hand and seal of office at Alex-

andria, this first day of March, 1854.

(Seal) IOHN P. HAMPTON, Clk.

State of Missouri,)

County of Clark.) Sct.

I, Reynolds Bane. Judge of the County Court of Clark County and State of Missouri do certify that the foregoing attestation of John P. Hampton, Clerk of The County of Clark and State of Missouri, is in due form and by the proper offices and the signature purporting to be his is genuine.

Given under my hand and seal this the 20th day REYNOLD BANE, (Seal) of April, 1854.

Justice of the County of Clark, State of Missouri.

State of Kentucky,)

Cumberland County.) Sct.

I, James Haggard, Clerk of the County Court for said County do certify that the foregoing deed of conveyance together with the official certificates endorsed thereon is truly entered of record in my office in deed book N, page 120.

Given under my hand, June 22, JAMES MAGGARD, Clerk. By M. Martin, D. Clk.

